

Medal of Valor Review Board

- ★ **Michael D. Branham** (Chairman), Director,
Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections
- ★ **Tim Bivins**, Sheriff, Lee County, Illinois
- ★ **Oliver “Glenn” Boyer**, Sheriff, Jefferson County, Missouri
- ★ **Chuck Canterbury**, National President, Fraternal Order of Police;
Horry County, South Carolina, Police Department (Retired)
- ★ **Robert Creighton**, Special Agent in Charge, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco,
Firearms and Explosives (Retired)
- ★ **David E. Demag**, Chief of Police, Essex, Vermont
- ★ **Richard “Smokey” Dyer**, Fire Chief, Kansas City, Missouri
- ★ **Richard B. Gasaway**, Fire Chief, Roseville, Minnesota
- ★ **Jimmy R. Houston, Sr.**, Chief of Police, Ridgeland, Mississippi
- ★ **William J. Nolan**, Assistant Chief of Court Services,
Cook County, Illinois, Sheriff's Office
- ★ **Thomas J. Scotto**, Detective, New York City Police Department (Retired)



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U.S. Department of Justice

Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor

Medal of Valor



Medal of Valor

Every day, public safety officers risk their lives to protect America's citizens and communities. To honor that commitment, Congress passed the Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor Act of 2001, which created the Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor, the highest national award for valor by a public safety officer. The medal is awarded annually by the President to public safety officers who have exhibited exceptional courage, regardless of personal safety, in the attempt to save or protect human life.

A "public safety officer" is a person (living or deceased) who is serving or has served in a public agency, with or without compensation, as a firefighter; law enforcement officer, including a corrections, court, or civil defense officer; or emergency services officer, as determined by the U.S. Attorney General.

Nominations

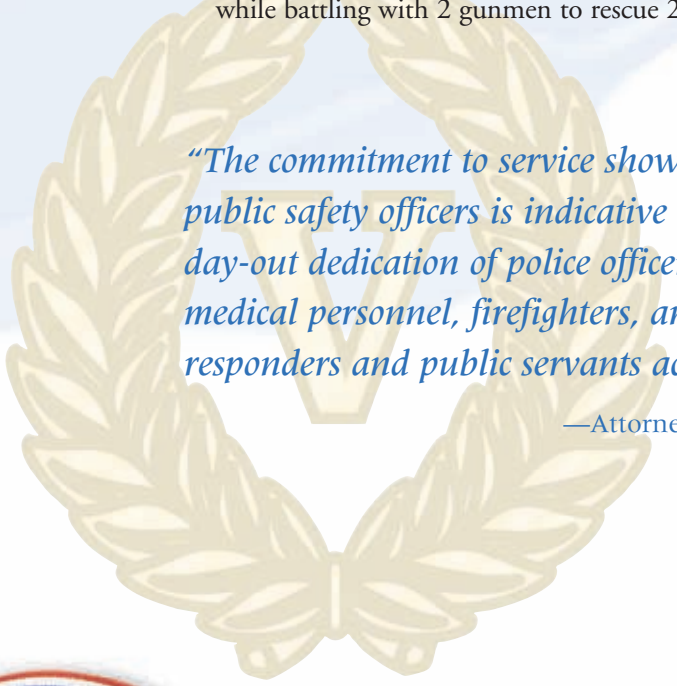
To receive the Medal of Valor, public safety officers must be nominated by the chief executive officer of their employing agencies; recommended by the bipartisan Medal of Valor Review Board; and cited by the Attorney General. The Review Board comprises representatives of the public safety community and the general public who are appointed by the President, the Majority and Minority Leaders of the U.S. Senate, and the Speaker and the Minority Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives.

The Attorney General designated the Assistant Attorney General's Office, Office of Justice Programs, to serve as the federal point of contact for the Medal of Valor initiative.

To learn more about the Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor, including how to nominate a public safety officer, visit www.ojp.usdoj.gov/medalofvalor.

Medal of Valor award winners include

- ★ A police sergeant who was severely injured by an assailant, but with the assistance of an unarmed 17-year-old police cadet, was able to return fire, fatally striking the assailant.
- ★ A firefighter who suffered second-degree burns while rescuing an unconscious victim of a residential fire, but later rejoined his crew to combat the fire.
- ★ Two paramedics who rescued an injured man trapped in the undercarriage of a subway train that had struck him and was unstable on its track.
- ★ A deputy sheriff who was shot 10 times, including in her shooting hand, while battling with 2 gunmen to rescue 2 small children held captive.



"The commitment to service shown by these incredible public safety officers is indicative of the day-in and day-out dedication of police officers, sheriffs, emergency medical personnel, firefighters, and countless other first responders and public servants across our Nation."

—Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales

